

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Applicant also acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 3-11 are allowable on Page 6 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments the Drawings, the Specification, and claims 1 and 3-11 will have been amended; and claim 2 will have been canceled (without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein). Claims 1 and 3-11 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention (Specification) as not being descriptive, requested that the last paragraph regarding the priority document be moved to the first page, and that on page 12, line 5, "header 20" be changed to -- header 30 --. Therefore, Applicant has amended the Specification to comply with each of the Examiner's above-noted requirements. Accordingly, the objection to the Specification is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the Drawings pursuant 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the

claims, and figures 12A-12C, 13, 14A-14C, and 15, under 37 CFR 1.84(c) for not having a --Prior Art--label. Therefore, Applicant has added Figures 6C and 6D which Applicant believes adequately illustrates the features recited in claims 7 and 9-11 of the present claimed invention. More particularly, the non-limiting embodiments of FIGS. 6C and 6D illustrate the protrusion (44) having a slanted face (44a), and the concavity (45) having two slanted faces (45a) and a substantially V-shape. Further, figures 12A-12C, 13, 14A-14C, and 15, have been amended to include a --Prior Art--label. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings satisfy the requirements under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 37 CFR 1.84(c), and respectfully request withdrawal of the aforementioned objection.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-11 because of informalities. Therefore, the Applicant has amended claims 1-11, where appropriate, to address the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, the objection to the claims are believed to be moot, and should be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HUANG et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,827,588) in view of the purported admitted prior art (AAPA) [i.e., the description contained on page 5, lines 8-13, of the present Specification].

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on these grounds, Applicant nevertheless has amended independent claim 1 to more clearly obviate the above-noted grounds of rejection solely in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard,

Applicant notes that HUANG and the purported AAPA fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements as recited in amended claim 1. In particular, claim 1, as amended, sets forth an electrical connection including, inter alia, a socket having a socket body formed of an insulation material and having a plug groove configured to engage the header, and a plurality of socket contacts held on a side wall of the plug groove, wherein the socket contacts are configured to contact the header posts when the header engages the plug groove, wherein the header body has a plurality of concave portions provided on a first face which faces a bottom face of the plug groove, wherein the first face is configured to engage the plug groove, and wherein at least one of the socket contacts has a first contact portion.

Applicant submits that HUANG and AAPA, alone or in any proper combination, lack any disclosure of the above-noted combination of elements.

In this regard, the Examiner cites to the slots (35) of HUANG as purportedly disclosing the concave portions of the present claimed invention. More particularly, the Examiner asserts that the slots (35) are concaved portions on a first face which is to be engaged with the plug groove of the socket body (see, page 5, lines 4-6, of the Official Action). However, Applicant submits that HUANG is very different structurally from the electrical connector of the present claimed invention. In particular, the face of HUANG which faces the bottom of the groove is flat (see, FIGS. 2 and 6). Further, the slots (35) which the Examiner considers to be concave portions are actually provided on a respective side surfaces of the tenon (32). In other words, the position of the slots (35) in

HUANG are different from the concave portions of the present claimed invention. Therefore, HUANG and AAPA, alone or in any proper combination, do not disclose at least a socket having a socket body formed of an insulation material and having a plug groove configured to engage the header, and a plurality of socket contacts held on a side wall of the plug groove, wherein the socket contacts are configured to contact the header posts when the header engages the plug groove, wherein the header body has a plurality of concave portions provided on a first face which faces a bottom face of the plug groove, wherein the first face is configured to engage the plug groove, and wherein at least one of the socket contacts has a first contact portion.

Additionally, Applicant submits that the top face of the tenon (32) disclosed in HUANG is formed flat to ensure that an adsorption area is sucked by an adsorption nozzle. Further, interference grooves (36), in which the header posts are to be inserted, are formed on both sides of the flat top face of the tenon (32). Therefore, the width of the header is unnecessarily increased.

In this regard, Applicant submits that at least one advantage of the present invention is that the header of the present claimed invention is capable of being absorbed by generating negative pressure in the enclosed space formed between cross walls, the bottom face of respective concave portions, and the adsorption face of the adsorption nozzle when the adsorption face contacts the first face such that the suction opening of the adsorption nozzle faces the concave portion. Further, the curved portion of the header posts, which is formed having a substantially reverse U-shape is, e.g., inserted into the header body

such that it strides across the side wall on each side of the concave portion, as illustrated by the non-limiting embodiment of FIG. 2 of the present application. Therefore, the width of the header of the present claimed invention may be made narrower than the header disclosed in HUANG.

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of HUANG and AAPA have been properly combined; the proposed combination still would not have resulted in the features of the embodiments of the present disclosure, as recited in amended claim 1.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 3-11 have been amended solely for cosmetic purposes, e.g., to better conform to amended claim 1 (from which they depend) and for easier reading.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and allow all pending claims in the present application.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, contained on pages 6 and 7 of the Official Action mailed on September 27, 2006, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

SUMMARY

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicant has argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant notes that this amendment is being made solely to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claim prior to the present amendment and the amended claim. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability (e.g., for easier reading), and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

William S. Boshnick
Reg. No. 44,550

Respectfully submitted,
Kenji OOKURA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.S. Boshnick".

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Attachments: 3 Sheets of Drawings